

Grain Valley High School
(816) 847-5000
Grain Valley North Middle School
(816) 994-4800
Grain Valley South Middle School
(816) 229-3499
Early Childhood Center
(816) 994-4901

Grain Valley School District

Effectively Educating Every Student Every Day

Administrative Offices
31606 NE Pink Hill Road • PO Box 304 • Grain Valley, MO 64029
(816) 847-5006 • www.grainvalley.k12.mo.us

Matthews Elementary School
(816) 229-4870
Prairie Branch Elementary School
(816) 847-5070
Sni-A-Bar Elementary School
(816) 847-5020
Stony Point Elementary School
(816) 847-7800

TO: Charles H. Davis
FAX NUMBER: 573-884-5400
FROM: S. Regier - Matthews Elementary
Grain Valley School District
NUMBER OF PAGES: 12
SUBJECT: Challenged Book

MATTHEWS ELEMENTARY
P.O. BOX 304
GRAIN VALLEY, MO 64029
PHONE 816-229-4870
FAX 816-847-5003

UNIVERSITY *of* MISSOURI

MISSOURI SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM
JOURNALISM STUDIES DEPARTMENT

January 31, 2012

Dr. Roy Moss
Superintendent
Grain Valley R-V
31606 N.E. Pink Hill Road
P.O. Box 304
Grain Valley, MO 64029-0304

Dear Dr. Moss,

Pursuant to the Missouri Sunshine Law (RSMo Chapter 610), I would like to obtain a copy of any and all records and correspondence pertaining to the challenge and/or removal of materials in school libraries and/or classrooms in your school district from January 1, 2008 to present. I have attached the form used by the Boone County School District to initiate book challenges as an example.

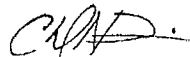
I understand that if I seek a copy of this record, there may be a copying fee. Please inform me of that cost prior to making the copy. I can be reached at 573-882-5736.

According to the statute, this request should be acted upon as soon as possible, but in no event later than the third business day following receipt of this letter. If access to the records I requested is going to take longer, please contact me so we can work out a reasonable date. I'll be back in touch in 10 working days if I don't hear from your office.

If you choose to deny the request, then you are required to respond in writing and state the statutory exception authorizing the withholding of all or part of the public record and the name and title or position of the person responsible for the denial.

Thank you for your assistance on this matter.

Sincerely,



Charles N. Davis, Ph.D.
204 Neff Hall
FAX: 573-884-5400



MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Roy Moss, Superintendent
DATE: October 12, 2010
FROM: Book Review Committee
RE: Parent request for reconsideration of materials

On Tuesday, October 12, 2010 a review committee met to review a parent request by Paula Sanders to remove the library book Like Jake and Me by Mavis Jukes. Mrs. Sanders turned in the written request form on 10/3/2010. The members of the committee consisted of Kathy Ambrose, Principal; Susie Regier, Matthews Librarian; Pam Callahan, Prairie Branch Librarian; Kelli Morrison, 3rd Grade Teacher; Heather Gross, Music Teacher and Kristi Newgard, parent.

The committee was given the materials prior to the meeting so that each member came to the meeting with the book and materials read. The meeting was led by Mrs. Ambrose who started with reviewing board policy KLB-AP: Public Questions, comments or concerns regarding district instructional/media/library materials. The parent request was reviewed after the district policy.

Mrs. Regier shared that the book was given a Newberry Honor Award in 1985 and shared the procedures for receiving the award (See Attachment). Mrs. Regier then shared three reviews that she had pulled for the book including two reviews from the H.W. Wilson Company and one from the School Library Journal (See Attachment).

The code of ethics of the American Library Association was reviewed and noted that they uphold the principles of intellectual freedom and resist all efforts to censor library resources (See Attachment). Court cases and banned books regarding the first amendment were reviewed and pointed out that reasons for banned books included obscene material and sexually explicit. None of which the committee felt Like Jake and Me fell under.

A review of the American Association of School Librarians AASL was shared with the principles and procedures stating that no parent has the right to determine reading, viewing or listening matter for students other than his/her own children. Also when learning resources are challenged, the principles of the freedom to read/listen/view must also be defended (See Attachment).

Each committee member was given the opportunity to share their thoughts and/or concerns. Comments were as follows: Kristi Newgard "I felt the illustrations were appropriate for the text". Kelly Morrison "The illustrations were appropriate for the text. I can see how as a teacher I could use this book for many lessons including inferring, author's message and text to self connections.". Heather Gross "I feel the story is beautiful, I love it, in context of the story the picture would not phase my child". Pam Callahan "I feel if we banned this book we would violate the freedom of speech because the illustration is the illustrator's interpretation of the text, and the text falls under freedom of speech". Suzie Reiger "I feel we should not ban the book because if we ban this book we would have to ban others with nudity such as the No David Books". Pam Callahan brought to the committee's attention other books in our district libraries that contain nudity and would have to be banned as well if we banned Like Jake and Me. See attachment for list of books discussed.

It was also discussed that this particular book was not checked out to a kindergartener. There was a substitute teacher in the library when the kindergarten student pulled it off the shelf. The student then went home and told his mother that there was a nude man in a book. The parent then proceeded to enter the library in the morning and have her student show her the book. Due to the procedures that Mrs. Regier has into place, this particular book has a level three sticker and only students reading on a third grade level would be able to check out the book. Check out procedures were also discussed with the committee but felt that the committee did not want to place the book under a category of retained with restriction.

The committee voted and decided six in favor of not banning the book and none in favor of banning or restricting the book. A written letter was mailed to the parent with the final decision (See Attachment).

GRAIN VALLEY R-V SCHOOL DISTRICT

Jump to section:

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Go

FILE: KLB-AP
CRITICAL

PUBLIC QUESTIONS, COMMENTS OR CONCERNS REGARDING DISTRICT INSTRUCTIONAL/MEDIA/LIBRARY MATERIALS (Answering Questions/Concerns)

It is necessary to have an orderly procedure that will assure a fair hearing to those who have objections and that will provide for a thorough investigation of disputed materials. The process described below is intended to assure that carefully considered judgments are made in response to criticism or objections.

1. All complaints to staff members are reported immediately to the building principal involved, whether they come by telephone, letter or by personal conference.
2. If the citizen further registers the complaint, he or she will be given a copy of the *Request for Reconsideration of Materials* form, which must be completed and returned to the building principal. The item under consideration must be returned to the building principal with the completed form.
3. Materials subject to the complaint are not removed from use pending committee study and final action by the Board.
4. The building principal arranges a review committee consisting of the librarian, teacher, himself/herself, patron of the district and, if necessary, a district administrator.
5. The committee reviews the material and returns a written report of its finding to the building principal. The committee may recommend that the questioned materials be:
 - ▶ Retained without restriction.
 - ▶ Retained with restriction.
 - ▶ Removed.
6. The building principal reports the recommendation of the review committee to the complainant.
7. The complainant, if not satisfied, may appeal the decision in writing to the superintendent.
8. In case of an appeal, the superintendent reports the recommendation of the review committee and the written appeal to the Board of Education. The Board of Education's decision will be final.
9. The decision of the Board is then reported to the principal and other appropriate professional personnel and then to the complainant. The principal shall then instruct the teacher/librarian to carry out the recommendation of the Board of Education.



Title: *Like Jake and me* (Book Review)

Personal Author: Twichell, Ethel R., reviewer

Journal Name: *The Horn Book*

Source: *The Horn Book* v. 61 (March/April 1985) p. 179

Review Word Count: 200

Publication Year: 1985

ISSN: 0018-5078

Title: *Like Jake and me*

"Bold, painterly illustrations, barely containing the strong personalities of their subjects, vigorously bring to life the mutual adjustment of young Alex and his stepfather, *Jake*. . . .

Review Excerpt: The author skillfully interweaves Alex's reverence for the life of the spider and her young with *Jake's* concern for his pregnant wife, and *Jake's* dislike for ballet with his final dancelike embrace of Alex. The story combines integrity in characterization and speech with earthy humor and great joy in the flowering of *Jake's* and Alex's affection."

Document Type: Book Review

Accession Number: 198506002962044

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Title: Like Jake and Me

Author: Mavis Jukes

ISBN: 0-440-42122-5 **Date:** December 2005

ISBN 13: 978-0-440-42122-1

Price: \$6.50(USD) Retail (Random House, Incorporated)

Edition: illustrated, large type

REVIEWS

Publishers Weekly

(October 9, 1987; 0-394-89263-1; 978-0-394-89263-4)

The Newbery Honor-winning story of a small boy meeting and learning to love his new stepfather. Ages 6-10. (September)

Booklist

(October 1, 1987; 0-394-85608-2; 978-0-394-85608-7)

Gr. 2-4. Comparing himself to Jake, his tall, ex-cowboy stepfather, Alex feels inadequate. But when Jake finds a large wolf spider hiding inside his clothing, he needs help, and Alex, unlike his stepfather, is not afraid of spiders.

Booklist

(February 1, 1987; 0-394-85608-2; 978-0-394-85608-7)

Ages 6-8. A wolf spider helps a boy and his stepfather come to terms with their differences and their similarities.

[PRINT THIS SCREEN](#) | [CLOSE THIS SCREEN](#)

FILE: KLB-AF
CriticalPUBLIC QUESTIONS, COMMENTS OR CONCERNS REGARDING DISTRICT
INSTRUCTIONAL/MEDIA/LIBRARY MATERIALS
(Request for Reconsideration of Materials)

Author: Mavis Jukes
Format: _____
Title: Like Jack and me
Publisher (if known): _____
Request Initiated By: Paula Sanders
Telephone: 816 517 1922 Address: 2419 S. Buckner Tarsley
City: Grain Valley Mo. Zip: 64029
E-mail Address: _____

1. Did you read or view the entire book or material? ☒ Yes ☐ No
If not, what parts did you read or view? Please be specific--cite page numbers.

2. What are your specific objections to the educational use of this material?

Pictures are too graphic for such a young age. The book is for ages 3rd grade and up.

3. But my kindergarten son seen the book while under the supervision of his kindergarten teacher.
What would you like your library/school to do about this work? →

- ☐ Do not assign/lend it to my child: _____
☒ Return it to the staff selection committee/department for re-evaluation.
☐ Other, please explain: _____

Signature: Paula Sanders Date: 10-3-10

FILE: KLB-AF
Critical

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS, COMMENTS OR CONCERNS REGARDING DISTRICT
INSTRUCTIONAL/MEDIA/LIBRARY MATERIALS**
(Request for Reconsideration of Materials)

Author: _____

Format: _____

Title: _____

Publisher (if known): _____

Request Initiated By: _____

Telephone: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail Address: _____

1. Did you read or view the entire book or material? ☐ Yes ☐ No
If not, what parts did you read or view? Please be specific--cite page numbers.

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☐ Do not assign/lend it to my child: _____

☐ Return it to the staff selection committee/department for re-evaluation.

☐ Other, please explain: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

* * * * *

Director of Special Services
847-5006

Business Office
847-5006

Dir. of Operations
847-5006

Transportation Center
847-5004

Dir. of Food Service
847-5009

October 14, 2010

Grain Valley R-5 School District

Office of the Superintendent
847-5006

Assistant Superintendent of
Academic and Student Services
847-5006

Executive Director of
Human Resources and Auxiliary Services
847-5006

P.O. BOX 304
GRAIN VALLEY, MISSOURI 64029-0719
FAX (816-229-4831)
www.grainvalley.k12.mo.us

Grain Valley Senior High
847-5000

Grain Valley Middle School
229-3499

Matthews Elementary School
229-4870

Prairie Branch Elementary School
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Stony Point Elementary School
847-7800

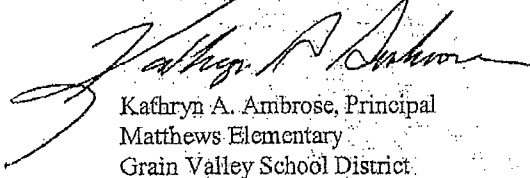
Paula Sanders
2419 S Buckner Tarsney Rd
Grain Valley, MO 64029

Dear Mrs. Sanders,

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for your written concern regarding the book Like Jake and Me. After reviewing board policy a committee was formed and with careful consideration it was decided not to remove the book.

If you have any questions regarding this decision please do not hesitate to call. I would be more than happy to visit with you regarding the committee's decision. Again, thank you for your concern. I appreciate your opinion and value your input.

Sincerely,



Kathryn A. Ambrose, Principal
Matthews Elementary
Grain Valley School District

Requests for Reconsideration of Library Materials Form

Title of item _____
Book ☐ Periodical ☐ Other ☐

Author _____

Publisher _____

Request initiated by _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Do you represent

____ Yourself

____ An organization (name) _____

____ Other group(name) _____

1. Did you read or view the entire work?
What parts did you read or view?

2. To what in the work do you object? (Be specific; cite pages, sections etc.)

3. What do you feel might be the reaction of a student reading or viewing this work?

4. For what age group would you recommend this work?

5. What do you believe is the theme of this work?

6. What would you like the library/school to do about this material?

- ☐ Don't allow my child to check the material(s) out
☐ Return it to the selection committee for re-evaluation.
☐ Other _____

7. In its place, what work would you recommend that would convey as a picture and perspective of the subject treated? _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Requests for Reconsideration of Library Materials Form

Title of item _____
Book ☐ Periodical ☐ Other ☐

Author _____

Publisher _____

Request initiated by _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Do you represent

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Signature _____ Date _____